

The drawings are objected to for failing to show a certain feature of the invention required by claim 3. In addition, claim 3 is objected to and also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. It is believed that the above amendment, which makes clear that the relevant angles defined by claim 3 are measured from a line normal to the surface of the light guide, addresses each of these objections and rejections.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Redmond. Claim 1 as amended requires a light guide having a light reflective surface and a plurality of grooves continuously formed in the light reflective surface from end to end. Redmond shows a light guide with a discontinuous set of grooves. Furthermore, claim 1 as amended requires that the grooves have front sides and rear sides angled with respect to a line normal to the light discharge surface so that the display panel is illuminated by a mixture of primary light reflected from the front side and secondary light reflected from the rear side. The Redmond reference teaches that the front side angle should be selected so that light entering the lighting panel through end surface 19 is reflected along the panel toward the end surface 20 by facets 23. (See column 3, lines 10-14). Thus, the light exiting from the Redmond lighting panel has all been reflected from panel 28 and consequently, the display assembly is not illuminated

by a mixture of primary and secondary light as now required by claim 1. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Redmond or the other prior art and is allowable.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated April 10, 2001, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 1-6 are now in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 17 with the following:

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, the display panel 4 is the LCD, and the light source is the LED. A light guide 1 of the present invention is made of transparent plastic and formed into a rectangular parallelepiped, and has a light reflection surface 1a, a light discharge surface 1b opposite to the light reflection surface 1g. There is formed a plurality of grooves 1c on the light reflection surface 1a. The grooves 1c are formed into the same depth, thereby to form a saw-toothed shape. Each groove 1c extends the whole width of the light guide and has a scalene triangle in section. The grooves are arranged at right angle with the central beam from the light sources 3, and disposed at a predetermined distance. The groove 1c comprises a front side 1d having a long length, and a rear side 1e having a short length, whereby an included angle θ is formed. The inclined angle θ comprises a first angle θ_1 [of inclination] of the front side 1d with respect to a line perpendicular to the light discharge surface and a second angle θ_2 [of inclination] of the rear side 1e with respect to a line perpendicular to the light discharge surface. The second angle θ_2 has about 45 degrees.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) An illuminating device for a display comprising:

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a display panel;

a light ¹guide having a light reflection ^{1a}surface, a light discharge ^{1b}surface opposite to the light reflection surface, a front side ^{1f}surface, and a rear side ^{1g}surface, and disposed under the display ⁴panel so that the light discharge ^{1b}surface opposes to the display ⁴panel;

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a light source provided to oppose to the front side ^{1f}surface of the light guide;

a plurality of triangular grooves ^{1c}continuously formed in the light reflection ^{1a}surface from end to end,

each of the triangular grooves comprising a front side ^{1d}having a first angle ^{θ_1} with respect to a line perpendicular to the light discharge surface [of inclination] and a rear side ^{1e}having a second angle ^{θ_2} with respect to a line perpendicular to the light discharge surface [of inclination] which is smaller than the first angle; and, ^{$\theta_2 < \theta_1$}

⁵
a diffusion and reflection plate disposed to oppose to the rear side ^{1g}surface of the light guide, wherein

the first angle and the second angle are selected so that the display panel is illuminated by a mixture of primary light reflected from the front side and secondary light reflected from the rear side.